

Appl. No. : 10/044,304
Filed : October 25, 2001

REMARKS

Amendments to the Claims

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the instant Amendment to the Claims. By the foregoing amendments, Claims 18, 20, 22 and 23 have been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the limitations of the independent claims from which they previously depended and Claims 3, 12-17, 19, 21, and 24-26 have been canceled. Applicant respectfully submits that entry of this Amendment after final rejection is proper because the Amendment places the application into condition for allowance, as explained below.

Applicant reserves the right to file divisional and/or continuation applications containing claims directed to all or part of the subject matter of any claims amended, withdrawn, or canceled at any time during the prosecution of this application, and thus unclaimed subject matter is not dedicated to the public.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant acknowledges receipt of the initialed copies of the PTO-1449 forms listing references submitted by Applicant in the IDS's filed on March 11, 2003, May 5, 2003 and June 3, 2003.

Applicant respectfully requests initialed copies of the PTO-1449 forms listing references submitted by Applicant in the IDS's filed on August 13, 2003 and July 30, 2003.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office has objected to Claims 18, 20 and 22-23 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but states that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Since Claims 18, 20 and 22-23 have now been amended in the manner suggested by the Office, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are now in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

The rejections of Claims 3, 12-17, 19, 21, and 24-26 are believed to be moot in view of the cancellation of these claims.

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Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance, early notification of which would be appreciated. Should the Office disagree, Applicant respectfully requests a telephonic interview to discuss any outstanding issues. The Examiner is respectfully invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number provided below in this regard.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 11/7/03

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AMEND
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